

RECOGNIZING 2011–2012 FULBRIGHT GRANTEES JULIA BAILEY, GREGORY DE ST. MAURICE, JAY EVICK AND SETH PACKRONE

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize four intelligent and accomplished students from my district for receiving one of the world's most competitive, merit-based grants to perform research in a foreign country. Since 1946, the Fulbright program has been fostering cross-cultural understanding and scholarly excellence by sending some of the world's brightest minds abroad to undertake innovative research projects. Julia Bailey of Latrobe, PA, Gregory De St. Maurice, also of Latrobe, PA, Jay Evick of Waynesburg, PA, and Seth Packrone of Uniontown, PA, each received a Fulbright grant for the 2011–2012 academic year. They were given this honor on account of their outstanding leadership skills, exceptional academic credentials and penetrating interest in foreign cultures.

Julia Bailey was awarded a Fulbright-Nehru English Teaching Assistantship. She is currently a graduate student at George Mason University, where she studies international development in Africa, as well as social anthropology. She has a wealth of education policy and classroom teaching expertise, having performed a significant amount of research to promote education in the developing world, and taught English in the United States and Egypt. Her worldliness, intellect and wide-ranging experience make her well-suited to serve as an ambassador for American culture and scholarship abroad.

Gregory De St. Maurice was given a grant to study Anthropology in Japan. He is currently working toward a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh. At present, his research focuses on the food culture of the city of Kyoto. Gregory's in-depth understanding of the people and traditions of Japan is laudable and will serve him well in his future studies.

Jay Evick received a grant to serve as an English teaching assistant at the Tyumen State University of Oil and Gas in Tyumen, Russia. He has spent the last four years studying Russian and linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh. Jay's ability to grasp the intricacies of Eastern European culture and complexities of the Russian language is a testament to his tremendous scholarly abilities.

Seth Packrone was awarded a teaching assistantship at Inonu University in Malatya, Turkey. Seth's passion is education reform. In the summer of 2007, he interned with Advocates for Children, a nonprofit that works to promote access to quality education for low-income, minority and special needs students. Seth has also been the recipient of an Arthur Liman Public Interest Law Fellowship. As a Liman Fellow, he researched and developed education policy with the Center for Law and Education in Washington, DC. Seth's unwavering desire to unlock the potential of young students everywhere speaks to his inherent selflessness and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, these four individuals possess an exemplary work ethic, profound intelligence and a precociously broad worldview. I am

overjoyed that they have been granted such a prestigious and coveted opportunity to study and work abroad.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENET ACADEMY

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Benet Academy, a Catholic Benedictine college preparatory high school located in Lisle, Illinois. On March 2, 2012, Benet will celebrate its Founder's Day, representing 125 years of dedication to academic excellence and Christian morality.

Benet Academy was founded in 1887 on the Benedictine motto "Ora et Labora," "Pray and Work." Generation upon generation of the Academy's devoted faculty and promising students have upheld this motto in a tradition that carries back 1,500 years to the Order of Saint Benedict.

I applaud Benet Academy's commitment to nurturing an atmosphere of prayer, work, and stability among its student body. Its distinctive qualities draw students from six counties, including many in Illinois' Sixth Congressional District. Benet Academy has helped students consistently achieve at rigorous academic levels while instilling the Benedictine core values of community, hospitality, respect, stewardship and love of learning.

On this special occasion, we recognize Benet Academy's rich history and faithfulness to God. We thank the Academy for its partnership with parents, who strive to educate the current generation that will become our nation's future leaders. For well over a century, Benet Academy has contributed toward this brighter future.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in honoring the legacy of Benet Academy, and in wishing them continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD'S 400 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless service of the Virginia National Guard, which is now celebrating 400 years of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and our nation.

With its roots dating back to the Jamestown Colony in the early 1600s, the Virginia Guard has established itself as one of the oldest institutions of our nation's armed forces. From protecting the colonies during the earliest days of the Commonwealth to its role in the Revolutionary War, the Virginia Guard was an essential force in the inception of our great nation.

For over four centuries, Virginia's guardsmen have come from all walks of life and volunteered to be "a guardian of freedom and the

American way of life." These men and women have gone into harm's way time and time again to preserve peace and ensure their fellow citizens of the Commonwealth are kept safe. Members of the Virginia Guard also have a proud history of public service to the nation at large, including five Virginia Guard officers who later went on to become U.S. Presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, and John Tyler.

More recently, the brave men and women of the Virginia Guard have again selflessly answered the call to duty. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, over 14,000 Virginia soldiers have been deployed across the world to protect our country. The enormous sacrifice of these soldiers and their families is something for which we will forever be grateful for.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the sacrifice and service of all past and present Virginia Guardsmen as we celebrate 400 years of courage and bravery in protecting the Commonwealth of Virginia and our country.

THE PALMER CENTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize The Palmer Center of Missouri's Sixth District. The Palmer Center is being honored by The National Institute for Senior Centers for meeting and exceeding the NISC standards of accreditation.

Of the 11,000 senior centers in the country, only 126 senior centers are able to achieve accreditation. The Palmer Center is one of only two sites in all of Missouri to earn that lofty distinction. Throughout the year-long process to receive the accreditation, the NISC noted the Palmers Center's innovative partnerships with various organizations and businesses throughout the community, its dynamic health and fitness programs, and The Palmer Center's exceptionally organized and professionally operated senior program. The NISC also made special note of the most important strength of The Palmer Center, it's committed and dedicated volunteer staff.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing The Palmer Center located in the Sixth District of Missouri. It is an amazing place with an outstanding group of people dedicated to making a daily impact on the proud seniors in Independence, MO and the whole of the Sixth District. I am honored to represent The Palmer Center in the United States Congress.

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY "DOT"
HALL FOWLER SHEFFEY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in memory of Dorothy "Dot" Hall Fowler Sheffey, a devoted wife, sister, mother, grandmother, and community